

[J. M. Kennelly]

[?] Personal narrative Jackson S - 241 - DAK 600 DUP 3 carbons

FORM A Circumstances of Interview

NAME OF WORKER Edna B Pearson ADDRESS 108 East 18th St. South Sioux City

DATE October 24, 1938 SUBJECT Interview No. 11

1. Name and address of informant [J. M. Kennelly?], Jackson, Neb.
2. Date and time of interview October 24, 1938, at 10 A M
3. Place of interview Mr. Kennelly's filling station at Jackson
4. Name and address of person, if any, who put you in touch with informant No one. I stopped at his filling station to inquire directions. Had not known him previous to that time.
5. Name and address of person, if any, accompanying you No one
6. Description of room, house, surroundings, etc.

Just an ordinary filling station in a small country town. Mr. Kennelly also repairs shoes and has a small stock of candy in his station. C15 - 2/27/41 - Nebraska

FORM B Personal History of Informant

NAME OF WORKER Edna B. Pearson ADDRESS 108 East 18th St. South Sioux City

Date October 24, 1938 SUBJECT Interview No. 11

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NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT J. M. Kennelly, Jackson, Nebraska

1. Ancestry Father Michael Eugene Kennelly Mother Margaret B. Welsh Kennelly
2. Place and date of birth On homestead 6 1/2 miles west of Jackson In October, 1878
3. Family two boys and two girls
4. Place lived in, with dates Always has lived in and near Jackson
5. Education, with dates Didn't get much education; quit school in sixth grade
6. Occupations and accomplishments, with dates. Has run this oil station for the past seventeen months. Before that time dealt mostly in trading horses and mules.
7. Special skills and interests ———
8. Community and religious activities Member of Catholic Church
9. Description of informant: Mr. Kennelly is a very nice, pleasant appearing man, about 5' 7' tall, with iron gray hair. Very nice to talk with and very willing to tell me what he could
10. Other points gained in interview

FORM C Text of Interview (Unedited)

NAME OF WORKER Edna B. Pearson ADDRESS 108 East 18th St. South Sioux City

DATE October 24, 1938 SUBJECT Interview No. 11

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT J. M. Kennelly, Jackson, Neb.

I was born about 6 1/2 miles southwest of Jackson. My folks came to town when I was quite small. My father was born in Hartford, Connecticut and my mother was born in this

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county. My grandfather came out about the time Father Tracy's colony came but didn't come with them; he came a few years later. When he married my mother they lived on the homestead 6 1/2 miles southwest of here, and lived there just long enough to prove up on it and dispose of it.

We were living in town at the time of the blizzard of 1888. They let school out about 3:30 and we children got up as far as town before it got bad. Father was out north of town to buy a beef for his butcher shop. He got home and took the team up to the house and was going to put them in the barn, but mother heard him come and told him he had better hunt me up. I was parked in a store and he finally found me. It was a raging storm and the snow was blinding and he had to hold a shovel up in front of his face in order to drive. The snow got quite deep.

I don't remember grasshoppers until the past year or so. The old folks tell about clouds of them coming until you would think it was night.

I was plum crazy about dancing. Have driven twenty-five miles, many times, with horses and buggy or sleigh, to dances; used to take parties to Jefferson, South Dakota, across the Missouri River on the ice. We sure used to enjoy square dances: Here are a few of the calls; used to dance them about forty-five years ago: First couple lead to the couple on the right; Honor the opposite lady and now your own true love; Swing the opposite lady and now your turtle dove.

(Repeat four times, with second couple, third couple, etc.) First lady and opposite gent give right hand across; Back to the left and hold fast, and balance four in line. Break in the center and swing half round, and balance you there again. Break in the center and balance all, and now two ladies change. Right and left to places, and grand right and left.

(Repeat four times, with second couple, etc.)

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St. Johns was 1 1/2 miles north of where Jackson now is. This town was called Franklin, later changed the name to Jackson.

My father ran a butcher shop in Covington in boom times, and at the same time had a butcher shop here.

I saw a man shot here one day in Jackson. John Severson and Mat League had a dispute over a thirty-five cent debt. Severson walked to his home, a block and a half away, got his revolver and shot and killed League. He never got time for it, either.

In the early days we had two good department stores, harness shop, two meat markets, three good hotels, and a few years later, at one time had seven saloons; had two lumber yards; four blacksmith shops, two or three livery barns, two barber shops and roller mill.

I dont know what was the cause of Jackson going back, unless it was because whenever a building burned the people didn't replace it. This was a good town, though, at the time of the big blizzard.